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LETTER

TO THE RIGHT HON.

HENRY DUNDASS,

SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR THE

HOME DEPARTMENT.

BY THE

LONDON CORRESPONDING SOCIETY,

UNITED FOR THE

PURPOSE OF OBTAINING

A REFORM IN PALIAMENT.

SECOND EDITION.

"AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM."

LONDON:

1794.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

THE
HONORABLE
MEMBERS OF THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS

IN THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS

HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the District of Columbia, and in reply to inform you that the same has been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and that they are now considering the same. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. A. A.

A LETTER, &c.

LONDON, 4th December, 1792,
No. 10, High-Street, Marybone.

SIR,

HONoured with, and happy in the confidence, of a number of my countrymen, at their request I transmit *officially* to his Majesty's Ministers two Addresses joined in one, containing together the reasons why we have associated for a Parliamentary Reform, and the legal and peaceable methods by which we hope to obtain it. So sanctioned, I must also inform you, that this letter and those addresses equally speak the sentiments of some thousands of industrious citizens in this capital, and

of a far greater number dispersed throughout the island ; there being not a single corner of it—rotten boroughs excepted—but cries aloud for reform.

Confiding in the justice of our claim, in the merits of our peaceable demeanour, and our ready obedience to all the laws of our country, we imagine ourselves clear from all charge or imputation of sedition, rebellion, conspiracy, or treason ; and that in pursuing what no one can deny to be our right, we are entitled to every protection and support of government.

I, therefore, in behalf of my fellow Citizens, this day call upon the King's Ministers to protect and uphold us in the pursuit of our Constitutional Rights ; and require that, in future, our lawful and well-regulated Assemblies, may be no more disturbed or interrupted by the saucy interference of usurped authority—by men unnamed working with threats upon the fears of uninformed publicans, and boasting SECRET ORDERS and WARRANTS, as though Britain was fallen under a despotic government, and liable to be ruled, not by laws, but by proclamations, and to be subservient to ministerial dictates, written

ten on a drum-head, and proclaimed by the mouth of the cannon.

Equally known by his activity as by his knowledge of the laws, an *honest* Magistrate, whose spies had well informed him of the nature of our meetings, has acknowledged that they were peaceable, innocent, and constitutional; and further, admits the necessity of a reform. At your hands, Sir, I therefore demand justice and protection for the Society, against all ruffians, who, let loose on the Public, have dared, or shall henceforth dare, like the satellites of ancient sanguinary tyrants, assume to themselves the double office of making laws and executing them.

Certain that such an iniquitous system cannot originate in a British Cabinet, we exclaim, May perdition light equally upon such vile miscreants and their employers!

Were we, according to the hackneyed custom, to recur to precedents, we should say, that Mr. Pitt, and the Duke of Richmond have, themselves, traced out the path we now pursue; that they themselves have asserted the right of Britons to a fair, equal, and adequate representation in Parliament; that they themselves had invited us to associate and discuss

cuss our rights ; and, we might add, that in so doing they spoke and acted like honest men——They were not then in office.

But the Rights of the People being ever the same, such precedents, and such supporters, are superfluous. However, as things seen through the medium of Power, have a very different aspect from what they were when those worthy gentlemen were on the other side of the question, it is not altogether improbable that severities may be had recourse to, to quell that desire for reform which they themselves have raised. Should that be the case, I beg it as a favor, or rather, being in the foremost rank, I claim it as my right, that the attack may commence upon me. Whenever extraordinary measures may be adopted, I earnestly wish to be the first of the Society in feeling the effects of them ; and shall deem it not a proud, but an honourable day, in which I shall be called upon to plead the cause of my fellow Citizens against oppression.

Claiming protection, I have a right to your answer, either to refuse or to grant it ; in either case it shall be made public, as shall also your silence, should you not attend to this letter, expressing the request of several thousand

and Citizens.—Our Country shall then judge us both.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

(Signed) M. MARGAROT.

Chairman of the Committee of the London Corresponding Society, united with a view of obtaining a THOROUGH Parliamentary Reform.

HENRY DUNDAS, Esq.

Claiming protection, I have a right to your answer, either to refuse or to grant it; in either case it shall be made public, as shall also your silence, should you not attend to the letter, expressing the request of several thousand

THE foregoing Letter was put into the General Post-Office on the 5th of December, by three of the Delegates of the Society, and a *receipt* taken from the Clerk of its having been delivered ; no doubt, therefore, can remain of its having been long in the possession of the Honourable Secretary.

The Committee observing that ten days have elapsed without any reply being made to their moderate request ; and considering that such time was fully sufficient, had any answer been intended, have ordered this publication,

Should the King's Ministers ever find it necessary to attend to the complaints of the People, the Committee will expect an answer. When that shall be the case, they pledge themselves to make it Public. In the mean time, they are determined not to slacken, but to continue, with increased and increasing vigilance, their endeavours to obtain justice for their Country ; not doubting but that in doing this, they will receive the firm and determined support of the people,

December 15th, 1792.

